THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The Foreign Investment Policy as enumerated is constantly reviewed to make it more dynamic with the objective of increasing foreign direct investment into the country particularly in priority/core sectors, including infrastructure.

Recently, the foreign investment parameters have been further liberalised to facilitate better and increased flow of foreign technology and equity and provide greater attraction to prospective investors.

It will no longer be necessary for automatic approvals by RBI that the amount of foreign equity should cover the foreign exchange requirements for import of capital goods needed for the project. The import of capital goods for the project would be, however, subject to the EXIM Policy.

The existing ceiling of Rs. 1 crore by way of payment of lumpsum fee for automatic approval has been raised to US $ 2 million.

[Translation]

Export Oriented Units in Maharashtra

2228. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise details of the export oriented units in Maharashtra and details of the export made by them;

(b) the details of the units which have achieved their targets;

(c) the units which have not achieved their export targets with the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to review the functioning of these units and ensuring that the export targets are achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Functions of Spices Trading Corporation

2229. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the main function of the Spices Trading Corporation;

(b) the main objective of the Corporation;

(c) the work done by the Corporation during the last three years;

(d) the export performance and profit of the Corporation during the above period;

(e) whether the Corporation has any proposal to diversify its activities; and

(f) if so, the details of the proposal mooted by the Spices Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The Spices Trading Corporation Ltd. (formerly known as Cardamon Trading Corporation) was set up in 1982 under the Companies Act. The main functions and objectives of the corporations are; to carry on domestic and international trade in spices and their products; to conduct open auctions and sell spices regularly; to process and cure spices and spice products; to undertake research and development of spices/ products and to promote and develop new markets for spices.

(c) and (d). The gross turn over and export turnover of the Corporation during the last three years is given below :

(in Rs. lakhs)

Year	Gross turnover	Export & turnover	Gross profit	Net profit
1993-94	2253.00	201.65	46.73	(-) 8.31
1994-95	2212.88	24.66	1.04	(-) 28.71
1995-96	1065.23	152.19	(-) 18.63	(-) 75.47

(Source : Spices Trading Corporation Ltd., Bangalore)

(e) and (f). Scanning of various business opportunities is an ongoing process and apart from Spices, Spices Trading Corporation Ltd. is also engaged in trading of wide range of other agricultural commodities such as onions, potatoes and dry-fruits for exports and domestic sales. The Corporation also plans to enter consumer marketing of whole spices in the domestic market. It also sells agricultural inputs viz. fertilsers, pesticides and sprayers to farmers.

High Court Benches

2230. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of High Court Benches which are defunct in the country, High Court-wise;

(b) whether there is a long pressing demand for the revival of the High Court Bench of Kerala at Trivandrum; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for its revival and functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) There are no defunct High Court Benches in the country.

(b) and (c). Representations have been received for establishing a bench of the Kerala High Court at Thiruvananthapuram. However, no complete proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala, in